

**WHEAT AND BARLEY: Production Costs and Returns,  
Northern Great Plains Region, Excluding Government Payments, 2007-2008 1/ 2/**

Item	Wheat		Barley	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
<b>Gross value of production</b> (excluding direct Government payments)	<u>Dollars Per Planted Acre</u>		<u>Dollars Per Planted Acre</u>	
Total gross value of production	224.66	340.88	168.06	269.03
<b>Operating Costs</b>				
Seed	10.22	16.19	8.54	12.02
Fertilizer 3/	30.36	53.65	29.02	51.28
Chemicals	15.32	16.62	13.06	14.17
Custom operations	7.08	8.16	6.13	7.06
Fuel, lube, and electricity	10.05	13.05	14.63	19.01
Repairs	10.88	11.02	16.12	16.33
Purchased irrigation water and straw baling	0.11	0.11	0.81	0.81
Interest on operating capital	1.88	1.08	2.12	1.09
Total operating cost	85.90	119.88	90.43	121.77
<b>Allocated overhead</b>				
Hired labor	1.99	2.06	2.22	2.30
Opportunity cost of unpaid labor	15.42	15.94	20.09	20.77
Capital recovery of machinery and equipment	50.05	53.98	80.40	86.71
Opportunity cost of land (rental rate)	41.76	45.71	39.69	43.43
Taxes and insurance	10.11	11.40	9.87	11.13
General farm overhead	10.07	10.34	9.35	9.60
Total allocated overhead	129.40	139.43	161.62	173.94
Total cost listed	215.30	259.31	252.05	295.71
<b>Value of production less total costs listed</b>	9.36	81.57	-83.99	-26.68
<b>Value of production less operating costs</b>	138.76	221.00	77.63	147.26
<b>Supporting information</b>				
Yield (bu./planted acre)	40.7	41.2	48.4	50.4
Price (dollars per bushel at harvest)	5.44	8.18	3.36	5.21
Enterprise size (planted acres) 1/	618	618	342	342
<b>Production practices 1/</b>				
Irrigated (percent)	<1	<1	6	6
Dryland (percent)	99	99	94	94

1/ Developed from survey base year 2004 for wheat. Developed from survey base year 2003 for barley.

2/ The Northern Great Plains Region includes portions of North Dakota, South Dakota, and parts of Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska and Minnesota. Minnesota is also part of the Northern Crescent and Northern Great Plains Regions. Information is available about the Northern Crescent and Heartland Regions on the ERS website listed below.

3/ Cost of commercial fertilizers, soil conditioners, and manure.

Source: Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.  
Internet Web Site ([www.ers.usda.gov/data](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data))